

ARTICLES

OF

ENQUIRY

Concerning certain MATTERS

ECCLESIASTICAL,

EXHIBITED

To the Church-wardens and Side-men of
every Parish within the

ARCH-DEACONRY

OF

HUNTINGTON;

For their better direction in their Present-
ments in the

VISITATION

OF

JOHN HAMMOND,

Arch-Deacon of HUNTINGTON.

London : Printed by James Cotterel. 1670.

The Tenour of the Oath of the
Church-wardens and Side-
men of every Parish.

You shall well and faithfully
execute the Office of Church-
wardens (or Side-men) in the
Parish of N. and true presentment
make of such defaults and offences as
are mentioned in the Articles given you
in charge, or you know to be enquirable
by the laws Ecclesiastical of this Land.

So help you God.




ARTICLES of Inquiry

Within the

Arch-Deaconry of HUNTINGTON.

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches and Chappels, with the Possessions, Furniture and Ornaments thereunto belonging.

I.  S your Church or Chappel, with the Chancel and Steeple thereof, in good and sufficient repair both within and without ?

2. Are all things therein kept orderly and in decent sort, free from any thing that may be either noisome or unseemly ?

3. Hath any part thereof been demolished or pulled down ? do you know, or have you heard of any person who hath imbezelled, or converted to his own use any of the Bells, Lead, Timber, or Utensils thereunto belonging ?

4. Have you in your Church or Chappel a large Bible of the last translation, the book of Common-Prayer lately established, the Book of Homilies allowed by authority, the Table of degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited, a Register-book in parchment, for Christenings, Marriages and Burials ; a Book for such strangers as Preach, to write their Names and Licenses in, as also another for the Church-wardens accounts ? and are the same kept in all points as is required ?

A 2

5. Have

5. Have you a Font of Stone standing in the usual place for publick Baptism? and doth your Minister therein onely Baptize Publickly?

6. Have you a decent Communion-table, with a Carpet, in the time of Divine-Service, and another covering of white linen, at the time of administring the Sacrament of the Lords Supper? What cup, chalice, patten or flagons have you belonging to that Service?

7. Have you a convenient Seat or Pew for your Minister to read Service in, a comely Pulpit set in a convenient place to Preach the Word in, with a decent cloth or cushion for the same? have you also a decent and comely Surplice for the use of the Minister in his publick administrations?

8. Have you in your Church a Box for the Alms for the poor, a strong chest with locks and keys? and are the Plate, Vessels, Carpets, Vestments and Books belonging to the Church safely kept therein? and have you a Bier with a Herse-cloth for the decent Burial of the Dead?

9. Is your Church-yard well and sufficiently fenced, and decently kept? Have any encroached upon the Ground thereof, or cut down any Trees growing therein, unless for necessary reparation of the Church or Chancel?

10. Have you in your Parish a house for your Minister to dwell in? Is the same, with the out-houses thereunto belonging, in good and sufficient repair? Have any of them been defaced or pulled down without License?

11. Have you a true and perfect Terriar of all the Glebelands and tenements belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, taken by the view of your Minister and other honest men of your Parish; as also a Note of such Pensions, rate-tithes, and portions of tithes both within and without your Parish, as belong thereunto? And is a copy thereof delivered into the Bishops Registry?

12. Is

12. Is there any Alms-house, Hospital, or Free-School, (being not of the Kings foundation) in your Parish? And are they and their endowments preserved and employed to their right use?

13. Have any dying in your Parish given any Legacy to the Church or Poor, which hath been mis-impolyed, and disposed of to other uses?

T I T. II.

Concerning Ministers.

1. **H**AVE you a settled Minister in your Parish? If not, how long have you been destitute? What is the living yearly worth, and who is the Patron thereof? By whom are the fruits received, and how are they disposed of?

2. Doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate audibly and distinctly read all Morning and Evening Service; and in reading of the same, administration of the Sacraments, celebration of Marriage, burial of the Dead, and in all other Offices, use the form and words prescribed in the book of Common-Prayer, without any addition, omission, or alteration?

3. Doth he diligently instruct the Youth of your Parish in the Church-Catechism? Doth he read the Canons of the Church publickly once every year, give notice of the Holy-days and Fasting-days, of the Communion, Banns of Matrimony, and Perambulation in *Rogation-week*, read the Briefs and Excommunications delivered to him, and every year publish in your Church or Chappel the Statute against profane swearing and cursing, according as it is enacted: 12 Jac. cap. 20?

4. Doth he at reading or celebrating any Divine Office in your Church or Chappel constantly wear the Surplice, together with such other Scholastical Habit as is suitable to his degree? and in Preaching doth he wear a Gown? 5. *Hath*

5. Hath he at any time, that you know of, publickly or otherwise spoken against the Order or Government of the Church of *England* as is now by Law established?

6. Doth he administer the Sacraments in private houses otherwise than is by law allowed?

7. Doth he permit any strange Minister to Preach in your Church or Chappel who is not sufficiently authorized thereunto?

8. Doth he serve more than one Church or Chappel in distinct Parishes upon one day? If so, how far distant are those Churches or Chappels which he so serveth, and what Wages and Salary hath he for his pains?

9. Is your Minister a man of a godly, sober and peaceable conversation? or on the contrary, Is he a frequenter of Taverns or Alehouses, or doth he board therein? Is he a common Gamester, a profane Swearer, an obscene Jester, or an intemperate Drinker? Is he vehemently suspected of Incontinency? Is he a fomenter of suits and contention among Neighbours? Doth he give himself to any base or servile labour, or secular trade, unbefitting the duty and Dignity of his Office? Is his apparel grave and decent, both for fashion and colour, as the Canons of the Church require? Or is his carriage and conversation in any kind disorderly, scandalous, or unbeseeming a Minister of Jesus Christ?

T I T. III.

Concerning Parishioners.

1. **D**O any of your Parish make profession of any other Religion than what is professed and established in the Church of *England*? Do any reproach the same Religion, or seduce others from it? Or endeavour to alienate the hearts of the people from their Loyalty and Obedience to the King?

2. Do

2. Do any absent themselves from the publick Assemblies and Service of the Church, or not come in due time, as well to Service as Sermons, or not behave themselves, when they are there, with such reverence, order, decency and attention as is required; or depart thence before the Service and Sermon be ended, and the blessing pronounced?

3. Do any refuse to send their Infant-children to be Baptized in your Church or Chappel, unless in case of extreme danger? Or are any children kept unbaptized longer than is allowed? Or are there any more aged persons yet unbaptized? Or are any children not Communicants admitted to be Godfathers or Godmothers in Baptism?

4. Doth every House-holder in your Parish cause their children and servants to come to Church, to learn their Catechism, and to give an account thereof unto your Minister, that so they may be brought to understand and take upon them their Baptismal covenant, and be confirmed, and admitted Communicants?

5. Do all Communicants in your Parish, upon timely notice given by the Minister, thrice at the least every year (once whereof at *Easter*) in that meek and reverend manner which is required, partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper? and do such signify their names and purpose to Communicate unto the Minister at least the day before the celebration thereof?

6. Do any of your Parish repair to other Parishes or Ministers, of them to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper? Or are there any strangers, not of your Parish, who forsake their own Churches, and usually repair to yours for it?

7. Are there any living in your Parish, who have been unlawfully married contrary to the laws of God? or any who being lawfully divorced have married again? or any
who

who being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by due course of law, do not cohabit together?

8. Have any been clancularly married in private houses, or in the Church without licence, the Banns not being thrice published; or by licence or without, neither of the persons so married dwelling at that time in your Town?

9. Do any married Women in your Parish after their delivery from the danger of Child-birth, refuse in due time to make their publick thanksgiving in your Church for so great a mercy, or to pay their accustomed duties as is required?

10. Do any profane the Lord's day, by working in their ordinary callings, by tipling, gaming, or any unlawful exercises or pastimes?

11. Do any walk, talk, or stand idle in the Church-yard, or Church-porch, during the time of Divine Service or Sermon; Or at any other time quarrel, brail, smite, or lay violent hands upon one another either in the Church or Church-yard?

12. Have any irreverently used your Minister, or spoken slanderous or reproachful words against him to the scandal of his vocation, or interrupted him in his administrations?

13. Do any refuse to pay the Rates assessed upon them for the repair of the Church or Chappel, and the providing of Books, Utensils, and other necessary Ornaments for the same?

14. Are there any in your Parish Blasphemers of Gods Holy Name, any common Drunkards or Swearers, any commonly known or suspected to be guilty of fornication, adultery, incest, or any other notorious crime of Ecclesiastical cognizance? Declare who they are, that they may be punished according to their deserts.

T I T. IV.

Concerning Church-wardens.

1. **A**Re the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen? Have the former and last Church-wardens given up their accounts to the Minister and Parishioners, and also delivered up to their Successors the moneys remaining in their hands, together with all things else belonging to your Church or Chappel?

2. Do they against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel provide a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants?

T I T. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks.

HAve you a Parish-Clerk chosen by your Minister aged twenty years at least? Is he of ability to perform his duty? and doth he perform the same in all respects as is required of him? Are his accustomed Wages duly paid unto him? or do any withhold the same from him?

IF you know any other default or crime of Ecclesiastical Cognizance not exprest in these Articles, you are likewise to present the same, and therein to take the assistance of your Minister.

The Minister of every Parish may joyn in Presentment with the Church-wardens and Side-men: And if they will not present such enormities as require reformation, the Minister himself, (being the Person that should have the chief care for the suppressing of sin and impiety in the Parish) may present the same.

FINIS.
